



Lake Clarity Crediting Program

Making the Transition

**California Regional Water Quality
Control Board
Lahontan Region**

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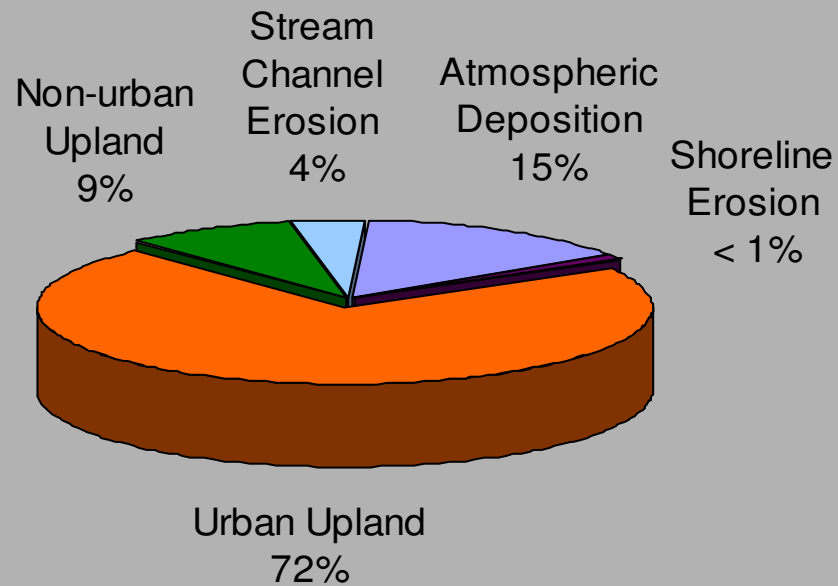


Presentation Overview

1. **Why we need the Crediting Program**
2. **Program overview**
3. **How the Water Board plans to use the Crediting Program**

Remember this?

Fine Sediment Particle Number Estimates (particles less than 16 micrometers) Percent Contribution per Source Category



The Problem:





Recommended Strategy

Percent Reduction of **Basin-wide** Particle Load

Pollutant Source Category	Recommended Strategy Load Reduction
Forest Uplands	1.0%
Stream Channel Erosion	1.8%
Atmospheric Deposition	4.6%
Urban Uplands	24.5%
Clarity Challenge	32%



Are we there yet?

Projects have been built, more than \$1B invested, lands have been restored

Hours put into O&M, planning, and regulatory compliance

Undefined benefit to Lake Tahoe

Is everyone doing their part?

Have obligations been met?

Are we doing this right?

Lake Clarity Crediting Program Overview





What is the Lake Clarity Credit?

A means to define the relationship between actions and average annual load reductions

Fine sediment particles

Total Nitrogen

Total Phosphorus

Initial focus is on fine sediment particles

Estimate, track, and report N and P



What is the Lake Clarity Credit?

One (1) Lake Clarity Credit = 1×10^{16} fine sediment particles (<16 micrometer)

**One (1) Lake Clarity Credit = Approx:
200 lbs of FSP
1 ¼ cubic feet**



Credit Characteristics

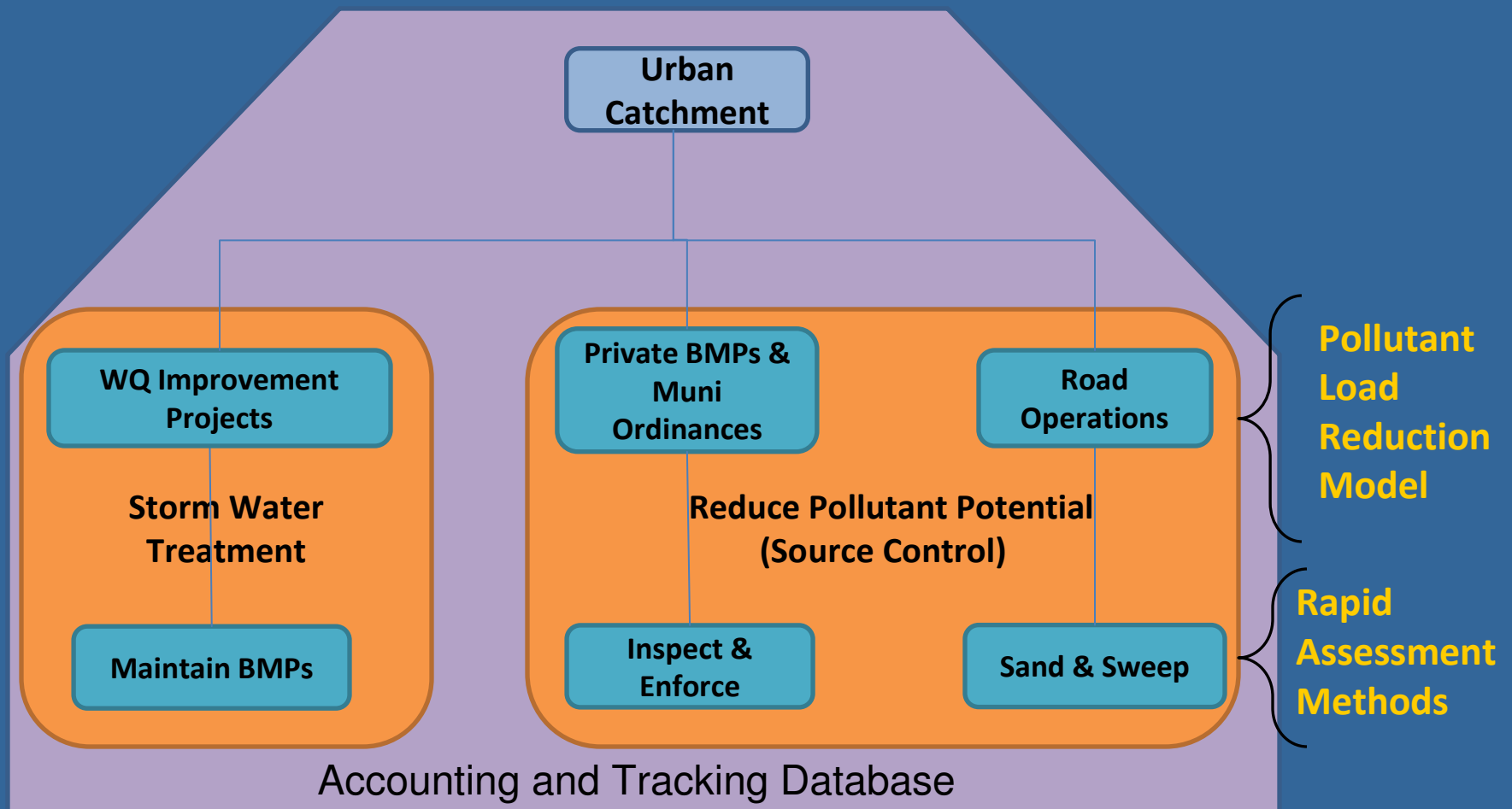
Estimated annual average load reduction
Not Measured, Not Monitored

Accounted and reported on an annual basis

Distributable – can be shared among urban jurisdictions

Determined by consistent estimation tools

Lake Clarity Crediting Program & Implementation Tools





Crediting Program Approach

Prioritize effective actions and provide flexibility

Award Credit for a variety of actions

Water quality improvement projects

Operational activities

Ordinances & programs

Innovative practices & alternative actions

Crediting Program Approach

Provide regulatory stability

Enable program adjustments

Incorporate the latest monitoring/science



Lake Clarity Crediting Program and California Stormwater Permits





TMDL Stormwater Regulatory Approach

Emphasize average annual mass-based load reductions

Identify and target actions in high-polluting watersheds

Link proposed actions to expected pollutant load reductions



Stormwater Regulation Approach

	Existing Policy
Regulatory Focus	Concentration limits – everywhere, all the time
Compliance Prospects	Not reasonable – even advanced measures may not meet effluent limits
Linkage between actions/benefits	Poor - hard to link projects/actions to lake clarity response
Comparability	Little ability to compare results across different implementers



Stormwater Regulation Approach

	Existing Policy	Proposed Approach
Regulatory Focus	Concentration limits – everywhere, all the time	Load limits – average annual
Compliance Prospects	Not reasonable – even advanced measures may not meet effluent limits	Reasonable – possible demonstrate progress toward achieving stated goals
Linkage between actions/benefits	Poor - hard to link projects/actions to lake clarity response	Strong – TMDL load reductions directly related to clarity response
Comparability	Little ability to compare results across different implementers	Direct performance comparisons, transparent through reporting



CA Stormwater Permits

Current Municipal Stormwater Permit expires Oct. 2010

Caltrans Statewide Stormwater Permit is due for update

CWA requires TMDL allocations be incorporated into NPDES permits

Permit updates will include TMDL allocations for CA jurisdictions



What the new Permit will *likely* include

5-Year load reduction requirements

Annual load reduction requirements

Updated SWMPs describing how needed load reductions will be met

Annual Monitoring and Reporting requirements based on the Crediting Program Handbook



What the new Permit will *likely not* include

20 year, 1-hour design storm requirements

Concentration based numeric effluent limits

Prescriptive operations and maintenance requirements



Process

Permit will be drafted with Permittee and stakeholder input

Beta test period will help refine credit accounting and tracking tools

Staff to bring the Permit before the Water Board in October 2010

